

# ITALY HARASSED BY MANY PROVOCATIONS IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY'S BALKAN POLICY YEARS BEFORE THE WAR, HER FRIENDS SAY

Vienna Once Denied Knowledge  
Her Chief of Staff Had  
Mobilized.

HAD ARMY OF 500,000  
READY TO ACT IN 1912

Friends of Rome Government An-  
alyze Curious Incidents Before  
Summer of 1914.

BY WINGROVE BATHON.

The publication in Washington during the past week of the second Austro-Hungarian "Red Book" of official documents relating to Italy's participation in the war has served to direct attention in a public way more closely than ever before to the question whether Italy is really in the war, as Austria-Hungary charges, for the sake of conquest.

The friends of Italy say that an examination of the facts leads to the conclusion that the charge is not true, and that, on the contrary, there has been a long series of provocations by Austria-Hungary against Italy which are the primary causes of the two nations being at war.

Cablegrams dealing with Italian and Austro-Hungarian affairs have been numerous since the war began, and there is not a wide understanding of the difficulties between these two countries. Briefly, Italy's story, her proponents say, appears to be one of attempts to avoid aggression. One of the most striking cases of this, it is said, is to be found in a story just come to be known. This is that in the spring of 1912, while Italy was at war with Turkey, Austria-Hungary massed such a number of troops on the Italian border as to leave the Italian government in doubt of her neighbor's hostile intentions. The Italian ambassador at Vienna was instructed to ask for an explanation. The answer given was that the mobilization of 500,000 troops had taken place by an order of the chief of the general staff of the army, Gen. Conrad von Hotzendorf, without the Austro-Hungarian government having any knowledge of it. The general was "dismissed" but he was reinstated three months later.

Never Known in United States.

These reported provocations began long before the present European war, and some of them have never become known to the people of the United States. Some of them have never been reported in European newspapers, and it was only recently that the Italian public was alerted by the government to know of them, and it may be that they are not all known in Italy yet.

It happens that coincident with the publication of the second Austro-Hungarian "Red Book" which was extensively quoted from in The Star of last Tuesday, there have arrived in Washington certain documents, which have been placed at my disposal, which show in new and interesting light the relations between Austria-Hungary and Italy for two or three years before the present war began, and there have been reported in Washington during the past week complete copies of the Italian "Green Book" of official documents relating to the war, which has not been widely quoted from.

Many persons believe that Italy went to war in order to possess herself of a few thousand square miles of territory, the Italian provinces of Austria-Hungary, Trentino and Trieste, which had been Italy's, but the documents alluded to, the friends of Italy say, show that nothing could be further from the truth. Italian territories have been ceded to France, and other Italian territories now belong to Switzerland, but it is said that no man in Italy would dream of attempting to reconquer them. So it is said that there must have been other considerations besides those of the Italian provinces in Austria-Hungary which caused Italy to go to war. Some of these are reported to be:

Opposed Trieste University.

Austria-Hungary stubbornly opposed the establishment of an Italian University at Trieste, a city which is more Italian than anything else. Hundreds and hundreds of Italians in government service at Trieste were thrown out of their employment there, some of them after thirty or forty years of faithful service, and without pensions, because they were Italians, it is said.

During the Tripoli war Germany and Austria-Hungary openly encouraged the Turks against Italy and did not confine themselves to merely supplying the Turks with arms and ammunition, it is charged.

During that war Austria-Hungary threatened to abrogate the treaty of alliance with Italy on the ground of Italy's alleged violation of article VII, the friends of Italy say, because, while operating against some Turkish torpedo boat destroyers which were attempting to sink the Italian transports carrying troops to Tripoli, one of the Italian destroyers landed at Prevese in Albania eight or ten sailors to make a reconnaissance for a few hours. That article of the treaty provided that there should be no landing of forces in the Balkans by either Italy or Austria-Hungary. Yet the proponents of Italy say, notwithstanding that Austria-Hungary complained of the landing of this small scouting party aimed against the Turkish boats in the harbor when Austria-Hungary appointed a military governor at Belgrade, after invading Serbia, one of the Balkans, the Austro-Hungarian government maintained that Italy had no right to protest.

The annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina has been frequently told of as one of the causes contributing to the war relations between Austria-Hungary and Italy, but the friends of Italy say, it is perhaps not as well known that in November, 1912, Austria proposed to Italy that they should limit the expansion of Serbia by insisting upon certain compensations and guarantees. Italy replied emphatically that the guarantee must in no way constitute a monopoly in Austria's favor nor must she on any account threaten the independence of Serbia.

Threat Against Montenegro.

Within the next few months, however, an Italian historian has recently said Austria-Hungary threatened, with the full consent of Germany, to occupy Montenegro. Again she was opposed by Italy, in view of the terms of the triple alliance. The Italian position was thus stated to Austria-Hungary:

"The day on which Austria presumes to upset in any way the equilibrium of the Adriatic, the triple alliance will have ceased to exist."

In May, 1912, according to dispatches printed in the Rumanian newspaper, Prince Furstenberg, Hungary charged the Rumanian government with the mission of informing the Rumanian government that in the event of a war between Bulgaria and Serbia Austria would support Bulgaria, if necessary, by force of arms.

At the beginning of August, 1913, just a year before the present war began, Austria communicated to Italy her intention of provoking a war with Serbia. Once more Italy pro-

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Sword Only Out of Desire  
to Get Back Provinces.

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Saloniki Austria's Goal.

But this, however, is only a slight bit, at least, upon the events leading to the war between Italy and Austria-Hungary, and now approaches, as the daily cablegrams from Italian sources tell us in the newspapers, the hour for which Austria-Hungary has so long waited. A short while, Italians say, and the world will know whether she has managed, despite the opposition of Italy, to win a way to Saloniki. For, they declare, evidently Saloniki has been Austria's goal for years and years.

Italy, the friends of that country say, who had attained her unity through countless martyrdoms and years of self-sacrifice in a struggle waged against Austria-Hungary in the name of nationality and independence, could not but support in the Balkans the policy of the Balkans for the Balkan people. Austria-Hungary, Italians say, has again and again tried to get, and has, at times, taken, slices of the Balkans for herself. The annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina is pointed to as an example. Italy entered the alliance with Austria-Hungary for the maintenance of peace and the status quo, her friends say, and they declare that Austria-Hungary very well knew that if she disturbed either of them, in her pursuit of the Balkans, Italy could not follow her, as the cry of her people must have been that of liberty against Austrian oppression or greed of conquest. Time after time this was made plain by Italy at Berlin and Vienna.

Nevertheless, in 1908, Austria-Hungary inaugurated the policy of "might is right," Italians say, by annexing Bosnia-Herzegovina in violation of the treaty of Berlin, to which she was a party. The other signatory powers, taken by surprise, and by whom, they say, Italy's proponents say, thrust her sword in the balance in favor of her ally, Austria-Hungary, and threatening the other powers with the horrors of a European war, obliged them to acquiesce in the accomplished fact of the annexation, announced after it was done.

To placate demonstrators, it is said, Austria-Hungary voluntarily offered on that occasion to evacuate the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, a small strip of Turkish territory in the upper part of what is now Serbia, where she had been keeping troops in accordance with the treaty of Berlin. The Young Turks, however, whom Germany had assisted, the friends of Italy say, in order to curb British influence at Constantinople, and so pave the way for German ambitions beyond the Hellespont to the Persian gulf along the Baghdad railway, only further accelerated the prospect of Turkey's final disfigurement, thus endangering the European peace.

Thus, revolution after revolution so weakened the Turkish empire that it was ripe for the taking.

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"Among the roses of the Villa Malta, the residence of Prince Bulow," he continues, "gathered discredited politicians, society women, who were not only paid press agents, and from the Villa Malta to the Italian senate and chamber of deputies floated serious rumors, vilifying the army, the navy and the government."

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finally the Balkan states arose against it, for the deliverance of their Christian brethren, Turkey collapsed, and as a result of Balkan victories, Italy's friends say, Austria-Hungary saw her dream of a highway to Saloniki through the Sandjak vanish when victorious Serbia and Montenegro joined hands over Novi-Bazar.

Evidently, then, Italians say, Serbia has constantly stood in the way, from that day to this, of Austria-Hungary's outlet on the Aegean sea at Saloniki. They declare that the second Balkan war, and the conferences of ambassadors in London were featured by efforts of Austria-Hungary to crush Serbia, and they charge that Austria-Hungary then decided to take Europe by surprise, and that, fully supported by Germany, she launched her fateful ultimatum to Serbia, which began the present European war.

July 25, 1914, two days after Vienna's ultimatum to Belgrade, the prime minister and the minister of foreign affairs of Italy warned the German ambassador at Rome "that, according to the spirit of the treaty of the triple alliance, Austria-Hungary had no right to undertake an action like the one she had taken at Belgrade without previously consulting with her allies; that, on account of the manner in which it was conceived and the demands it contained, the note presented to the Serbian government, though hardly efficient against the pan-Serbian danger, was deeply offensive to Serbia and, indirectly, to Russia, thus clearly showing that Austria-Hungary meant to provoke war; that, on account of Austria-Hungary's method of procedure and the defensive character of the ultimatum, Italy would not be under any obligation whatever to assist Austria-Hungary should the latter find herself at war with Russia as a consequence of her action toward Serbia, because any European war resulting from such action would then only be an unavoidable consequence of an act of provocation and aggression on the part of Austria-Hungary."

Attitude of Austria.

Compare, now, the attitude of Austria-Hungary.

July 30, 1914, the Austro-Hungarian ambassador in Rome told the Italian government, in the official documents, that "Austria-Hungary could not pledge herself not to occupy Serbian territory."

Count Berchtold, the Austro-Hungarian minister of foreign affairs, declared July 31, 1914, to the Italian ambassador at Vienna that he "could not accept mediation urged upon him by the British and the Italian governments, if such a mediation had the object of attaining the independence of Serbia, and even if Serbia should fully submit to the conditions imposed upon her, and the hostilities she had already begun against Serbia."

Nevertheless, in 1908, Austria-Hungary inaugurated the policy of "might is right," Italians say, by annexing Bosnia-Herzegovina in violation of the treaty of Berlin, to which she was a party. The other signatory powers, taken by surprise, and by whom, they say, Italy's proponents say, thrust her sword in the balance in favor of her ally, Austria-Hungary, and threatening the other powers with the horrors of a European war, obliged them to acquiesce in the accomplished fact of the annexation, announced after it was done.

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many times, and is more or less familiar to the public. The wording of the articles of the treaty, the repetition of which lack of space forbids, Italians declare, proves that both in the letter and spirit the treaty was first of all a defensive one—that is to say, intended for the maintenance of peace and the status quo. And the friends of Italy also declare that its provisions were utterly irreconcilable with an act like the sending of Austria-Hungary's ultimatum to Serbia, August 23, 1914.

Four Italian Questions.

Italy's action, her proponents say, before abrogating the treaty depended upon the four following questions:

Had Austria-Hungary been attacked by two or more great powers without direct provocation on her part?

Had any great power threatened the national security of Austria?

Had Austria-Hungary used her influence against any territorial change in the Balkans and given explanations to Italy of her aims against Serbia?

Had Austria-Hungary agreed on compensation to Italy before temporarily or permanently occupying Serbian territory?

Italian answer to all four is "No." To Italians it seems plain that it was Austria-Hungary that violated the status quo, Italy being obliged to abrogate.

What the general public may not know, however, the friends of Italy say, is that even after recognizing the justice of Italy's claims for the maintenance of peace in the Balkans, and offering her certain territorial concessions of Italian provinces in Austria-Hungary, the government of the latter country never ceased to resort, it is declared, to all possible means to delay to the utmost limits her negotiations with Italy.

New Feature in Diplomacy.

In this respect, the Italian "Green Book" relates a new feature in the history of diplomacy when it sets forth in Document No. 23 the fact that Baron Burian, the present Austro-Hungarian minister of foreign affairs, declared himself unacquainted with a written record by which Count Berchtold, his predecessor, had renounced Austria-Hungary's right under the treaty then existing to compensation because of Italy's occupation of Rhodes and the Dodecanese in 1912, during Italy's war with Turkey. The Duke of Avarna, then Italian ambassador at Vienna, it is said, took the letter Count Berchtold had written him out of his pocket and showed it to Baron Burian. Notwithstanding the fact that it would have been necessary to hold a cabinet meeting before such a letter could have been written, the Italian ministry of foreign affairs, this, Italians say, is an answer very similar to that al-

luded to in the beginning of this article, wherein it is set forth that the Austro-Hungarian government did not know that the chief of staff of the Austro-Hungarian army had mobilized a force of 500,000 men on the borders of Italy.

WILL TAKE AMPLE TIME  
IN CONSPIRACY CASES

Government to Investigate Fully  
Before Proceeding Against Robert Fay and Associates.

NEW YORK, October 30.—Although the cases of Robert Fay, the confessed German bomb plotter, and four other men charged with conspiracy to blow up steamers bearing supplies to the allies probably will be taken before the federal grand jury next Wednesday, United States District Attorney H. Snowden Marshall said today the government would not hasten prosecutions.

Fay's associates, his purchases of explosives, experiments with bombs and his sources of financial aid, together with his previous standing in Germany, Mr. Marshall said, are to be made the subject of minute inquiry.

"Fay's arrest, after he had been watched for weeks, was ordered because it was feared he was on the verge of making use of the bombs which he had prepared," said Mr. Marshall, "but now that we have him in custody the government will deliberately continue to investigate all the ramifications of the plotting. If there were any ramifications, so far we have no evidence to show that Fay acted on other than his own responsibility. Only the complete verification of all that Fay has said in his confession will determine whether or not there are to be more arrests."

Stories that, besides disabling merchant ships bound for the allies' ports, Fay intended to attempt to disable British war vessels near New York, were without any support in evidence obtained by the government, Mr. Marshall said.

President Pardons Boston Man.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., October 30.—A commutation of his sentence by President Wilson brought freedom today to Harold L. Belknap, son of a Boston physician, who was serving a three-year term in the federal penitentiary here for forgery committed in the Philippine Islands. Four months yet remained of his sentence.

BRINGS SUIT FOR \$10,000,000.

Certificates Lost in Chicago Fire  
Found Thirty Years Later.

CHICAGO, October 30.—Alleging that stock certificates of the People's Gas-light and Coke Company of Chicago, purchased for \$75,000 in 1858, are now worth \$10,000,000, the company was sued for the latter sum, which includes unpaid interest and dividends, by Fred D. Foss today. The bill recites that the certificates were lost track of in the great Chicago fire of 1871 and were not found until 1901.

The case went to the state supreme court several years ago, but was withdrawn later because the plaintiff had failed to explain why suit had been so long delayed.

Foss, a photographer, obtained the stock from the estate of his uncle, Robert H. Foss, who was president of the company in 1858. The defendant

has a monopoly of the gas business in Chicago and the original capital has multiplied many times.

CLAIMED BY THREE WIVES.

Count Max Lynar London, Charged  
With Bigamy, Released on Bail.

NEW YORK, October 30.—Max Lynar, also known as Count Max Lynar London, who has been in the Tomb since October 13 on a charge of bigamy, was released today on a ten-thousand-dollar bond, furnished by a surety company. As he left the jail in an automobile with friends, Lynar declared he had been "framed-up" and that he was not a bigamist.

Lynar is charged with having married Amalie M. Wendt of Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; Rose O'Brien of Albion, N. Y.; and Lella Florence Allendorf.

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HUB FURNITURE SPECIALS on Opposite Page.

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THE KING OF ITALY.  
Who is leading his country's troops  
in the field.



PREMIER SALANDRA.  
Who is guiding Italy's diplomatic  
destinies.

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